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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2668  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RIDGWAY; BERLIN FOR KORNBLUM  
FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, BZ  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. YOU RECALL THAT THE FRG (TELTSCHIK) AND GOVERNING  
MAYOR DIEPGEN HAVE BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT OUR DECISION TO USE  
THE BRANDENBURG GATE AS THE SITE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S  
SPEECH. PART OF THEIR CONCERN HAS TO DO WITH THE  
PROXIMITY OF THE SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL, AND FEAR THAT THE  
USSR MIGHT REACT NEGATIVELY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT  
THEIR CONCERNS ARE OVERDONE, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT IT  
WILL BE IN OUR INTEREST TO TELL THE SOVIETS WHAT IS UP.  
TOWARD THAT END, JIM HOOLEY AND USBER CONCLUDED ON MARCH  
11 THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO BRIEF THE SOVIETS IN A  
LOW-KEY WAY ON OUR PLANS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

2. SUCH A BRIEFING WOULD SEEK TO (A) ELICIT SOVIET  
COOPERATION, AT LEAST PASSIVELY, IN RESTRAINING  
MIDEASTERN AND OTHER POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS IN THEIR  
SECTOR AND (B) ALLAY ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF  
THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OR THE SECURITY OF THE SOVIET WAR  
MEMORIAL.

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3. JOHN KORNBLUM IS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO HAVE LUNCH WITH  
SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER KOPTELTSEV TUESDAY, MARCH 17.  
THIS IS A PERIODIC LUNCH WITH AN OPEN AGENDA. IT WOULD  
BE EASY FOR JOHN TO REVIEW FOR KOPTELTSEV IN A GENERAL

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WAY WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND FOR JUNE 12, AND TO LAY DOWN A  
MARKER RE OUR EXPECTATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS WILL DO WHAT  
THEY CAN TO ENSURE SECURITY IN THEIR SECTOR DURING THE  
PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

4. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CONCUR IN JOHN'S MAKING  
THIS APPROACH TO KOPTELTSEV, OR IF YOU PREFER TO USE  
ANOTHER CHANNEL IN BRIEFING THE SOVIETS RE THE  
PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN JUNE 12. I BELIEVE IT WOULD  
BE USEFUL ALSO TO LET JIM HOOLEY KNOW HOW YOU DECIDE TO  
PLAY THIS ISSUE.

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